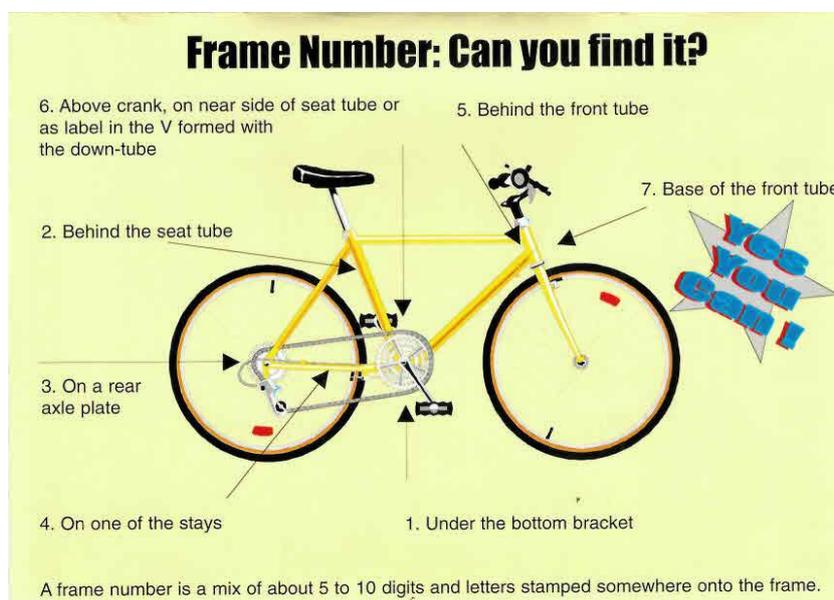


## Northstowe & Longstanton– Parish Magazine Article relating to Cycle Security.

Dear Residents,

I am one of the neighbourhood officers that covers Northstowe and Longstanton. I am putting an article in this month's edition for your Village Newsletter/Parish Magazine. Over the last six months we have had an increase in cycle thefts, therefore I have decided to put together some crime prevention tips on how to keep your bike safe and unattractive to bike thieves. By taking some simple preventative measures you can reduce the risk of your bike being stolen and improving your chances of recovering it if it is unfortunately stolen.

Before your bicycle is stolen there are some measures you can take. Record the details of your bike, make of cycle, Model, Colour, Type of bike e.g. Unisex, BMX, Mountain or Racer and the Frame number. It will help you describe your bike to police officers. Take a photo of your bike this will help prove that it is yours and help with insurance purposes.



Register your bike for free on the [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) database. This helps police reunite stolen bikes with their owners and assists with prosecutions. This simplifies insurance claims and Police reports with certificates of ownership. There are also great member offers.

We live in a bike City, so as you can imagine not all bikes are reported stolen to the police. They are not normally reported because the victim thinks that they do not have any chance of getting their bike back.

If your bike is stolen **Report it immediately** to the Police with the above mentioned information. When reporting your bike the details will be put on the stolen property register and anyone found with it can be arrested. If your bike is not reported stolen there could be a possibility that a suspect could be released with your bike. Do you want this to happen?

**Don't leave Your Bike unlocked.** Do not leave your bike in isolated places. Use bike racks which are located in a visible and well-lit area. Lock up your bike at all times using a good quality D-lock, even if you're quickly going into a shop or visiting a friend's house. Wherever possible, try to find a place to secure the frame and at least one wheel to an immovable object. If there are cycle parking facilities nearby that provides this, then use them, otherwise look for railings or posts.

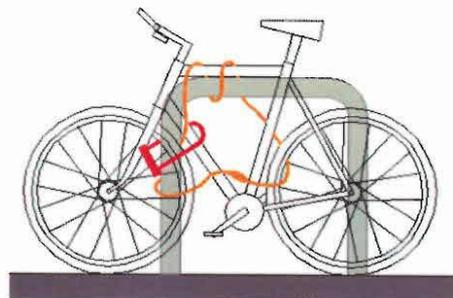
**Which lock should I buy?** This is not an easy question for the Police to answer as we cannot recommend individual products. As a general rule of thumb the more you spend on a lock the more security it will offer. Many of the locks that look good in the shop offer no deterrent to thieves. Some **D** or **U** locks may look strong but the security they offer varies widely. Thin cable locks can easily be cut, but the better ones are thicker and have interwoven threads that force the attacker to spend longer “chewing” through them. The website [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com) lists cycle locks that survive attack testing.



Buy good quality locks and **use them every time.**

**Bike Parts and Accessories.** If a thief can't steal your bike, they may take a piece of it. Wheels and seats held by “quick release” fittings are vulnerable. Local bike shops have a solution to this, in which the lever is replaced by a security bolt. Bicycle lights are made to be detached and so remove them, before the thief does.

Cambs police recommend you lock your bike up like this:



## **Second Hand**

Ask the seller if they can account for the history of the bike. Ask to see the frame number, if there has been interference with it decline the purchase. If stickers or decals have been removed, ask why. This could be to disguise the bikes identity. **If in doubt do not buy.**

I also want to take this opportunity to let you know that I will be running a **Neighbourhood Watch** event at the Parish Council Offices in Orchard Park on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April between 18:30 – 20:00 hrs. If you are interested in your area and security and want to know more about Neighbourhood Watch, how to become a member or co-ordinator and what it is all about then please come along, everyone is welcome.

[www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk) 101 – non emergency / 999 – emergency

[www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) – 03001232040

[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) – **0800555111**

[www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/](http://www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/)

**Kind regards**

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